Enterprises propose to hold interviews for selection of officers of Directors level in Public Sector Undertakings in the month of June and July, 1990;

(b) if so, whether some Ministries/ Departments concerned have not so far furnished appropriate ' select list of candidates and/or have not caused the vacancies to come up for public notice through news-papers etc;

(c) if so, the names of public enterprises/undertakings for which interviews have been proposed; and

(d) what efforts would be made to defer such selection and to make the existing incumbents to carry on, till suitable candidates are found out to replace them?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (d) Bureau of Public Enterprises are not charged with the responsibilities of making selection of persons for being appointed to Board-level positions in Public Sector Enterprises. In fact the selections are made by the PESB, which has been established in terms of Government of India Resolution dated 3-3-1987, in terms of the policy laid down therein. The PESB depending upon the nature of the vacancy and availabiUty of the persons who are associated with the selection process. PESB normally schedules the selection for full-time Board level posts two weeks in advance. The interviews fixed during the 1st fortnight of June, 1990 are as follows:

(i) DIR (FIN)-NP TC

(ii) CMD (PAWAN HANS)

(iii) MD, FSNL

(iv) DIR (OPS) RINL

(v) MD, Lagan Jute Manufacturing Corporation

(vi) DIR (ENGG), Burn Standard Co.

Ban on the movement of timber in private vehicles

2151. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of the Government to ban the movement of timber in privately owned trucks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Movement of timber is regulated under rules framed under Section 41 of Indian Forest Act, 1927. Any timber transported in privately owned vehicles has to be on the basis of it transit passes issued by an authorised officer under the rules framed by concerned State Government.

Change in the policy regarding social forestry

2152. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 830 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th May, 1990 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to change the policies regarding social forestry in the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the targets of social forestry for 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The thrust of the future programme of Afforestation and Wastelands Development, which includes Social Forestry, is on micro-planning, people's participation and technology exteision with special attention being given to regeneration of degraded forests, greening of public/community lands and promotion of farm forestry.

(c) The target for afforestation which includes Social Forestry is 5, 50, 000 hectares area coverage of Public lands and 225 crores seedling distribution Under farm forestry during 1990-91.

Use of Sanskrit Grammar for Developing Machine Translation Programmes

2153. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing interest of computer scientists in USA to use Sanskrit Grammar for developing Machine Translation Programme;

(b) whether there is any scheme to promote use of computers in language education and language based research in Indian languages such as translation, text understanding, text general and phonetics;

(c) if so, what are the targets, budget and estimated achievements during the 8th Five Year Plan;

(d) in what manner the proposal funding compare with that of similar projects abroad; and

(e) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, when it is proposed to be planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE I N THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Government is aware of research papers published in USA during 1985 and 1986 which have examined the possibility of using Sanskrit grammar to evolve an appropriate knowledge representation scheme. However, their application in developing practical machine translation system is yet to be established.

(b) Department ot Electronics has drawn up a programme entitled Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) for implementation during the Eighth Plan with thrust on the development of learning systems, machine translation systems and human machine interface systems. The activities relating to use of computers in language education and language based research such as translation, text understanding, text generation and phonetics are included in the thrust areas. These all constitute research and not large scale practical application at present.

(c) The main targets and objectives of the programme include the development of authoring systems, language learning systems, especially for slow learners, and those with speech and hearing impairments, limited domain computer assisted translation systems, human-machine interface systems, such as short-hand and character recognition systems, multilingual information display systemts and limited vocabulary speech input-output systems.

An amount of Rs. 17 crores has been proposed for this programme during the 8th Plan; but this is yet o be finalised.